



MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

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May 7, 2012

Senator Rick Jones

Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee

915 Farnum Building

Lansing, MI

Dear Senators Jones, Schuitmaker, Rocca and Bieda:

I am Robert Stevenson, Executive Director of the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police (MACP). I am writing to express our strong support of Attorney General Bill Schuette's VO-4 (Violent Offense-Fourth) proposal, as reflected in SB 1109. This legislation to toughen Michigan's habitual offender law will allow law enforcement to make our communities safer by targeting violent repeat offenders who threaten public safety.

Under this sentencing reform, hardened criminals with three prior felony convictions would receive a sentence of at least 25 years upon subsequent conviction for an additional serious violent crime. These violent crimes are the worst of the worst - murder, criminal sexual conduct, assault with intent to murder, carjacking and kidnapping. Removing these criminals from our streets should be a top priority.

Some will likely express concerns about the mandatory incarceration of these individuals beyond the more lenient sentences they currently receive. However, by the time a person has been convicted of three felonies and then commits a violent felony, they have proved that they cannot be rehabilitated. At this point, long-term mandatory incarceration is the only way to protect our communities.

The MACP hopes that passage of SB 1109 will be a top priority. If I can be of any further assistance in the matter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very Truly Yours

Robert Stevenson

Robert Stevenson, Chief (Ret.)